



## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 1, 3-12, 20 and 34-45.

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 34 and 35 have been amended. Claim 2 has been previously canceled, claims 24-33 have been previously withdrawn as drawn to an unelected invention, and claims 13-19 and 21-23 have been previously withdrawn as drawn to an unelected species. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Thus, claims 1, 3-12, 20 and 34-45 are pending and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed October 19, 2006, claims 1-12, 20 and 34-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, independent claims 1, 34 and 35, were rejected on the following grounds: (1) failure to identify the process steps comprising automated commerce; (2) indefiniteness of the recited condition "if the budget does not exceed a budget maximum"; and (3) failure to identify a specific relationship between the work order and the invoice information received from the vendor.

### **Claims Rejected—35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Applicants express their appreciation to the Examiner for the helpful suggestions made regarding overcoming the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Regarding claims 1, 34 and 35, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims have amended responsive to the rejection, as suggested by the Examiner.

As the Examiner indicated in the Office Action, subject to resolving the 35 U.S.C. § 112 defects, the pending claims contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 34 and 35 and, through dependency, claims 3-12, 20 and 36-45, are allowable, and request withdrawal of the rejection.

Regarding the claimed "preset overage tolerance," the Applicants respectfully submit that the term "overage" should not be confused with "coverage." According to Webster's II New College Dictionary, the noun "overage" is defined as: (1) "an actual amount, as of goods or money, that exceeds the listed or expected amount; and (2) "a surplus or excess." Therefore, the Applicants submit that the "preset overage tolerance," as used in the claims of the present application, is proper.

### **Conclusion**

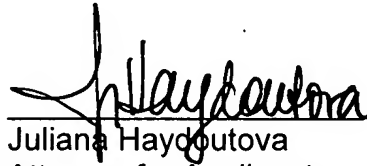
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with

this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter  
number 026083-00005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliana Haydoutova', written over a horizontal line.

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